

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

STACEY MASAKO HAYWARD,

Plaintiff,

v.

COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL  
SECURITY,

Defendant.

No. 2:25-cv-01606-DC-DMC

ORDER ADOPTING THE PARTIES’  
STIPULATION FOR THE AWARD OF  
ATTORNEY’S FEES AND EXPENSES  
UNDER THE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE  
ACT

(Doc. No. 19)

On June 10, 2025, Plaintiff Stacey Masako Hayward filed this action seeking review of a final decision of Defendant Commissioner of Social Security. (Doc. No. 1.) On November 26, 2025, the matter was remanded to the Commissioner of Social Security for further proceedings pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). (Doc. No. 18.) On December 17, 2025, the parties filed a stipulation with the court in which the parties agree that Plaintiff shall be awarded attorney’s fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act (“EAJA”), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), in the amount of \$8,200.00, and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920. (Doc. No. 19.)

Good cause appearing, and pursuant to the parties’ December 17, 2025 stipulation, the court orders as follows:

1. Pursuant to the EAJA, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), Plaintiff is awarded attorney’s fees and expenses in the amount of \$8,200.00;

2. No costs are awarded under 28 U.S.C. § 1920;

3. After the issuance of this order, the government shall consider the assignment of the EAJA attorney's fees to Plaintiff's counsel;

a. Pursuant to the decision in *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586 (2010), any such assignment will depend on whether the attorney's fees are subject to any offset allowed under the United States Department of Treasury's ("the DOT") Offset Program;

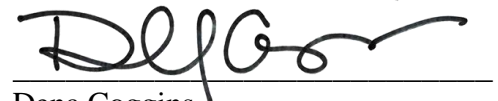
b. Fees shall be made payable to Plaintiff, but if the DOT determines that Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, then the government shall cause the payment of attorney's fees to be made directly to Plaintiff's counsel, Francesco Paulo Benavides; and

4. Whether the payment of attorney's fees is made payable to Plaintiff or to her counsel, the check will be mailed to Plaintiff's counsel's mailing address at:

Francesco Paulo Benavides  
Law Offices of Francesco  
1990 N. California Blvd., 8th Floor  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: December 22, 2025

  
Dena Coggins  
United States District Judge